Academic Assembly 36th Congress	03–October–2005	10/2/0
Senate Internal Affairs	24–October–2005	07/0/0
Senate 36th Congress	24–October–2005	23/4/0

The Undergraduate Student Government Joint Resolution 36-01: Penn State Wiki

WHEREAS, Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is charged with exploring issues related to academics, student life, and improvements to the operation of the Pennsylvania State University; and,

WHEREAS, USG Academic Assembly, Senate, and Executive branches are expected to provide and advocate for services useful to the student body, including the field of information technology; and,

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State University is recognized as a leader in providing innovative, scalable, and responsible information technology services to the academic community, including University Park Campus and Commonwealth locations; and,

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State University has a vested interest in effective organizational communication, an identified problem with de–centralized and dated sources of public information; and,

WHEREAS, the well–reasoned freely–voiced opinions of the student body are vital to the mission of the University; and,

WHEREAS, a wiki is online collaborative software consisting of a collection of articles, with any article directly editable by any authenticated user; and,

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WHEREAS, wikis have started into mainstream use, such as by the Wikimedia Foundation's Wikipedia project, containing non–authoritative yet useful information responsive to the needs of users; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that USG request that the University support and maintain a wiki installation, to be known as the 'Penn State Wiki', editable by every member of the University community, readable by the public at large; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the wiki, if adopted, will contain articles relevant to the Pennsylvania State University, and as long as this condition is met the University will not censor or restrict the existence of articles consistent with wiki policy; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the wiki, if adopted, will contain articles relating to peer advising, class descriptions, student organizations, and other topics as deemed important; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG request that the University assign student, faculty, and staff project moderators, granted certain privileges and responsible for handling policy violations, based on personal merit and project contribution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG request that the University emphasize editing from a neutral/objective point of view, with style guidelines and emphasis on citing authoritative sources, and compliance with copyright law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG request all students act in good faith to support the wiki project, to serve as a model for other schools and have the University hold accountable users who abuse the technology; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG support the wiki project with advertisements and student awareness campaigns.

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Respectfully submitted,

George Chriss
Faculty Senator
Eberly College of Science
Chairman, A.A. Student Resources and Concerns

Scott Sherbine
Faculty Senator
College of Liberal Arts
Chairman, A.A. Undergraduate Education

Ricardo Torres
Faculty Senator
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

Brock Coleman
South Senator
Chairman, Senate Internal Affairs

Ron Capurso
West Senator
Chairman, Senate Student Services

Henry Hund
South Senator

APPROVE / VETO

Galen Foulke
President, Undergraduate Student Government
Member, University Board of Trustees

10/21/05
Date